

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 The electronic device comprises a plurality of ports, including a first port. A determination is automatically performed as to whether an external component is connected to the first port. The first port is identified as an active port in response to a determination that an external component is connected to the first port. If there no external component is connected to the first port, then the first port is identified as an inactive port. The inactive and active ports may then be distinguished and treated differently during subsequent control and/or management of the plurality of ports. According different implementations the first port may be identified as an active port in response to detection of a capacitive, resistive, and/or inductive load connected to the first port. The first port as may also be identified an active port in response to a
15 determination that a current is flowing through the first port.

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